

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001

November 7, 2019

Reply to Attn of: SMD/ Director, Astrophysics Division

Dual-Anonymous Peer Review for Astrophysics General Observer / General Investigator Programs

Dear Colleague,

NASA is strongly committed to ensuring that the review of proposals is performed in an equitable and fair manner that reduces the impacts of any unconscious biases. To this end, and motivated by a successful pilot program conducted for the Hubble Space Telescope, Astrophysics General Observer / General Investigator (GO/GI) programs convert over the next year to dual-anonymous peer review, in which not only are proposers unaware of the identity of reviews, but the reviewers do not have explicit knowledge of the proposing teams and institutions.

The following table provides a timeline for the implementation of dual-anonymous peer review for Astrophysics GO/GI programs:

Format	Program	Anticipated Proposal Due Date
Traditional	NICER Cycle 2	11/13/2019
Traditional	TESS Cycle 3	1/16/2020
Dual-Anonymous (pilot)	NuSTAR Cycle 6	1/24/2020
Traditional	Fermi Cycle 13	2/19/2020
Dual-Anonymous	Hubble Cycle 28	3/4/2020
Traditional	Chandra Cycle 22	~ 3/2020
Dual-Anonymous	Webb Cycle 1	5/1/2020
Dual-Anonymous	Swift Cycle 17	~ 9/2020
Dual-Anonymous	NICER Cycle 3	~ 11/2020
Dual-Anonymous	TESS Cycle 4	~ 1/2021
Dual-Anonymous	NuSTAR Cycle 7	~ 1/2021
Dual-Anonymous	Fermi Cycle 14	~ 2/2021
Dual-Anonymous	Hubble Cycle 29	~ Spring 2021
Dual-Anonymous	Chandra Cycle 23	~ 3/2021

NASA understands that dual-anonymous peer review represents a major shift in the evaluation of proposals, and is committed to ensuring a smooth transition for the proposing community. Over the coming months, NASA SMD will summarize what other ROSES programs outside of GO/GI will

adopt dual-anonymous peer review and release detailed documentation to the community, and will host a virtual town hall in early 2020 to discuss dual-anonymous peer review. Astrophysics missions will host additional documentation and guidance, and the mission Science Operations Centers will assist proposers with specific questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Hertz
Director, Astrophysics Division
Science Mission Directorate